

Upper bounds on violation of Bell-type inequalities by a multipartite quantum state

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Abstract

We present the new exact upper bounds on the maximal Bell violation for the generalized N -qubit GHZ state, the N -qudit GHZ state and, in general, for an arbitrary N -partite quantum state, possibly infinite-dimensional. Our results indicate that, for an N -partite quantum state of any Hilbert space dimension, violation of any Bell-type inequality (either on correlation functions or on joint probabilities) with S settings and any number of outcomes at each site cannot exceed $(2S - 1)^{N-1}$.

1 Introduction

Multipartite Bell-type inequalities¹ are now widely used in many schemes of quantum information processing. However, the exact upper bounds on quantum Bell violations are well known only in case of bipartite correlation Bell-type inequalities where, independently on a Hilbert space dimension of a bipartite quantum state and numbers of measurement settings per site, quantum violations cannot exceed [2, 3] the Grothendieck constant.

Bounds on violation by a bipartite quantum state of Bell-type inequalities for joint probabilities have been recently intensively discussed in the literature both computationally [4] and theoretically, see [5, 6, 7] and references therein.

For an arbitrary N -partite quantum state, the exact upper bounds on the maximal quantum Bell violation have not been reported in the literature but it has been argued in [5] that, via increasing of a Hilbert space dimension of some tripartite quantum states, these states “can lead to arbitrarily large violations of Bell inequalities”².

In this concise presentation on our results in [8-10], we present the exact upper bounds on violation by N -partite quantum states of any Bell-type inequality, either on correlation functions or on joint probabilities. Specified for $N = 2, 3$, our new general results improve the bipartite upper bounds reported in [6, 7] and also clarify the range of applicability of the tripartite lower estimate found in [5].

¹On the general framework for multipartite Bell-type inequalities, see [1].

²Cited according to [5]

2 Some new Hilbert space notions

In this section, we shortly introduce some new tensor Hilbert space notions [8-10] needed for our further consideration.

Source operators. For a state ρ on a complex separable Hilbert space $\mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{H}_N$, denote by $T_{S_1 \times \cdots \times S_N}^{(\rho)}$ any of its self-adjoint trace class dilations to space $\mathcal{H}_1^{\otimes S_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{H}_N^{\otimes S_N}$.

We refer to dilation $T_{S_1 \times \cdots \times S_N}^{(\rho)}$ as an $S_1 \times \cdots \times S_N$ -setting source operator for state ρ and set $T_{1 \times \cdots \times 1}^{(\rho)} := \rho$. For any source operator T , its trace $\text{tr}[T] = 1$.

Proposition 1 *For any N -partite quantum state ρ , possibly infinite-dimensional, and any positive integers $S_1, \dots, S_N \geq 1$, an $S_1 \times \cdots \times S_N$ -setting source operator $T_{S_1 \times \cdots \times S_N}^{(\rho)}$ exists.*

Tensor positivity. We refer to a trace class operator W on a Hilbert space space $\mathcal{G}_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{G}_m$, $m \geq 1$ as *tensor positive* and denote this by $W \stackrel{\otimes}{\geq} 0$ if

$$\text{tr}[W\{X_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes X_m\}] \geq 0, \quad (1)$$

for any positive bounded linear operators X_1, \dots, X_m on spaces $\mathcal{G}_1, \dots, \mathcal{G}_m$, respectively.

The covering norm. For a self-adjoint trace class operator W on $\mathcal{G}_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{G}_m$, we call a tensor positive trace class operator W_{cov} on $\mathcal{G}_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{G}_m$ satisfying relations

$$W_{cov} \pm W \stackrel{\otimes}{\geq} 0, \quad (2)$$

as a *trace class covering* of W .

Proposition 2 *For any operator³ $W \in \mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{G}_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{G}_m}^{(sa)}$, its trace class covering W_{cov} exists and relation*

$$\|W\|_{cov} := \inf_{W_{cov} \in \mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{G}_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{G}_m}} \text{tr}[W_{cov}] \quad (3)$$

defines on space $\mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{G}_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{G}_m}^{(sa)}$ a norm, the covering norm, with properties:

$$\begin{aligned} |\text{tr}[W]| &\leq \|W\|_{cov} \leq \|W\|_1, \\ W \stackrel{\otimes}{\geq} 0 &\Rightarrow \|W\|_{cov} = \text{tr}[W]. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

3 LqHV simulation of a quantum correlation scenario

For a state ρ on $\mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{H}_N$, consider an N -partite correlation scenario⁴ \mathcal{E}_ρ where each n -th of N parties performs S_n measurements with outcomes⁵ $\lambda_n \in \Lambda_n := \{\lambda_n^{(1)}, \dots, \lambda_n^{(L_n)}\}$.

³Here, $\mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{G}_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{G}_m}$ and $\mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{G}_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{G}_m}^{(sa)}$ denote, correspondingly, the space of all trace class operators and the space of all self-adjoint trace class operators on $\mathcal{G}_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{G}_m$.

⁴On the general framework for the probabilistic description of multipartite correlation scenarios, see [8].

⁵For simplicity, we consider here only discrete outcomes. This does not, however, imply any restriction on our main results since, as it has been proved in [10], the latter hold for outcomes of any spectral type, discrete or continuous.

We label each measurement at n -th site by a positive integer $s_n = 1, \dots, S_n$, and each of N -partite joint measurements, induced by this correlation scenario - by an N -tuple (s_1, \dots, s_N) where n -th component refers to a marginal measurement at n -th site.

Let, under the correlation scenario \mathcal{E}_ρ , each quantum measurement s_n at n -th site be represented on \mathcal{H}_n by a POV measure $M_n^{(s_n)}$. For a joint measurement (s_1, \dots, s_N) under scenario \mathcal{E}_ρ , expression

$$\begin{aligned} & P_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}^{(\mathcal{E}_\rho)}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N) \\ &= \text{tr}[\rho \{M_1^{(s_1)}(\lambda_1) \otimes \dots \otimes M_N^{(s_N)}(\lambda_N)\}] \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

specifies the joint probability $P_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}^{(\mathcal{E}_\rho)}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N)$ that each n -th party observes an outcome $\lambda_n \in \Lambda_n$.

If $T_{S_1 \times \dots \times S_N}^{(\rho)}$ is an $S_1 \times \dots \times S_N$ - setting source operator⁶ for state ρ , then, due to property $M_n^{(s_n)}(\Lambda_n) = \mathbb{I}_{\mathcal{H}_n}$, each probability (5) constitutes the corresponding marginal of the normalized real-valued distribution

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{tr}[T_{S_1 \times \dots \times S_N}^{(\rho)} \{M_1^{(1)}(\lambda_1^{(1)}) \otimes \dots \otimes M_1^{(S_1)}(\lambda_1^{(S_1)}) \otimes \\ & \dots \otimes M_N^{(1)}(\lambda_N^{(1)}) \otimes \dots \otimes M_N^{(S_N)}(\lambda_N^{(S_N)})\}], \\ & \lambda_n^{(s_n)} \in \Lambda_n, \quad s_n = 1, \dots, S_n, \quad n = 1, \dots, N. \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

This implies.

Theorem 1 [10] *For every N -partite quantum state ρ and any positive integers $S_1, \dots, S_N \geq 1$, each $S_1 \times \dots \times S_N$ - setting correlation scenario \mathcal{E}_ρ admits a local quasi hidden variable (LqHV) model*

$$\begin{aligned} P_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}^{(\mathcal{E}_\rho)}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N) &= \int_{\Omega} P_1^{(s_1)}(\lambda_1 | \omega) \cdot \dots \cdot P_N^{(s_N)}(\lambda_N | \omega) \nu_{\mathcal{E}_\rho}(d\omega), \\ s_1 &= 1, \dots, S_1, \dots, s_N = 1, \dots, S_N, \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

where $\nu_{\mathcal{E}_\rho}$ is a normalized bounded real-valued⁷ measure of some variables $\omega \in \Omega$ and $P_n^{(s_n)}(\cdot | \omega)$, $\forall s_n, \forall n$, are conditional probabilities.

Thus, an arbitrary N -partite state ρ does not need to admit an $S_1 \times \dots \times S_N$ -setting LHV description [8] but it necessarily admits an $S_1 \times \dots \times S_N$ -setting LqHV description.

4 Bell-type inequalities

For a general $S_1 \times \dots \times S_N$ -setting correlation scenario \mathcal{E} , consider a linear combination

$$\sum_{s_1, \dots, s_N} \left\langle \psi_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N) \right\rangle_{\mathcal{E}} \quad (8)$$

⁶See in section 2.

⁷Recall that, in an LHV model, measure $\nu_{\mathcal{E}_\rho}$ must be positive.

of averages

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\langle \psi_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N) \right\rangle_{\mathcal{E}} \\ & : = \sum_{\lambda_1 \in \Lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N \in \Lambda_N} \psi_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N) P_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}^{(\mathcal{E})}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N), \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

specified by a family $\{\psi_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}\}$ of bounded real-valued functions on set $\Lambda := \Lambda_1 \times \dots \times \Lambda_N$. For a particular choice of functions $\{\psi_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}\}$, averages in (9) may reduce either to joint probabilities or to correlation functions.

In an *LHV* case, any linear combination (8) of averages satisfies the following tight⁸ LHV constraints [1]:

$$\mathcal{B}_{\{\psi_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}\}}^{\text{inf}} \leq \sum_{s_1, \dots, s_N} \left\langle \psi_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N) \right\rangle_{\mathcal{E}_{\text{LHV}}} \leq \mathcal{B}_{\{\psi_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}\}}^{\text{sup}}, \quad (10)$$

with the LHV constants

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{B}_{\{\psi_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}\}}^{\text{sup}} & = \sup_{\lambda_n^{(s_n)} \in \Lambda_n, \forall s_n, \forall n} \sum_{s_1, \dots, s_N} \psi_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}(\lambda_1^{(s_1)}, \dots, \lambda_N^{(s_N)}), \\ \mathcal{B}_{\{\psi_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}\}}^{\text{inf}} & = \inf_{\lambda_n^{(s_n)} \in \Lambda_n, \forall s_n, \forall n} \sum_{s_1, \dots, s_N} \psi_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}(\lambda_1^{(s_1)}, \dots, \lambda_N^{(s_N)}). \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

The general LHV constraint form (10) incorporates as particular cases both - the LHV constraints on correlation functions and the LHV constraints on joint probabilities.

A Bell-type inequality is any of the tight linear LHV constraints (10) that may be violated in a non-LHV case.

5 Quantum violations

For an arbitrary $S_1 \times \dots \times S_N$ -setting quantum scenario \mathcal{E}_ρ specified by joint probabilities (5), every linear combination (8) of its averages satisfies the following analogs [10] of the LHV constraints (10):

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathcal{B}_{\{\psi_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}\}}^{\text{inf}} - \frac{\Upsilon_{S_1 \times \dots \times S_N}^{(\rho, \Lambda)} - 1}{2} (\mathcal{B}_{\{\psi_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}\}}^{\text{sup}} - \mathcal{B}_{\{\psi_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}\}}^{\text{inf}}) \\ & \leq \sum_{s_1, \dots, s_N} \left\langle \psi_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N) \right\rangle_{\mathcal{E}_\rho} \\ & \leq \mathcal{B}_{\{\psi_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}\}}^{\text{sup}} + \frac{\Upsilon_{S_1 \times \dots \times S_N}^{(\rho, \Lambda)} - 1}{2} (\mathcal{B}_{\{\psi_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}\}}^{\text{sup}} - \mathcal{B}_{\{\psi_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}\}}^{\text{inf}}), \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

where

$$\Upsilon_{S_1 \times \dots \times S_N}^{(\rho, \Lambda)} = \sup_{\{\psi_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}\}} \frac{1}{\mathcal{B}_{\{\psi_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}\}}^{\text{sup}}} \left| \sum_{s_1, \dots, s_N} \left\langle \psi_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N) \right\rangle_{\mathcal{E}_\rho} \right|, \quad (13)$$

⁸A tight LHV constraint is not necessarily extreme, see [1] for details.

is the maximal violation by state ρ of any Bell-type inequality (either on correlation functions or on joint probabilities) specified for settings up to setting $S_1 \times \dots \times S_N$ and outcomes in set $\Lambda = \Lambda_1 \times \dots \times \Lambda_N$. In (13),

$$\mathcal{B}_{\{\psi_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}\}} := \max\{|\mathcal{B}_{\{\psi_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}\}}^{\sup}|, |\mathcal{B}_{\{\psi_{(s_1, \dots, s_N)}\}}^{\inf}|\}. \quad (14)$$

For short, we further refer to parameter $\Upsilon_{S_1 \times \dots \times S_N}^{(\rho, \Lambda)}$ as the maximal $S_1 \times \dots \times S_N$ - setting Bell violation for state ρ and outcomes in Λ .

Using the new Hilbert space notions specified in section 2, we have the following general statements.

Theorem 2 [10] *For an arbitrary N -partite quantum state ρ , possibly infinite-dimensional, and any positive integers $S_1, \dots, S_N \geq 1$, the maximal $S_1 \times \dots \times S_N$ - setting Bell violation $\Upsilon_{S_1 \times \dots \times S_N}^{(\rho, \Lambda)}$ satisfies relation*

$$1 \leq \Upsilon_{S_1 \times \dots \times S_N}^{(\rho, \Lambda)} \leq \inf_{\substack{T_{S_1 \times \dots \times 1 \times \dots \times S_N}^{(\rho)} \\ \uparrow \\ n}} \|T_{S_1 \times \dots \times 1 \times \dots \times S_N}^{(\rho)}\|_{cov}, \quad \forall n \quad (15)$$

for any outcome set $\Lambda = \Lambda_1 \times \dots \times \Lambda_N$. Here, $\|\cdot\|_{cov}$ is the covering norm and infimum is taken over all source operators $T_{S_1 \times \dots \times 1 \times \dots \times S_N}^{(\rho)}$ for all $n = 1, \dots, N$.

Corollary 1 [10] *If a state ρ has a tensor positive source operator $T_{S_1 \times \dots \times 1 \times \dots \times S_N}^{(\rho)}$ then it admits an $S_1 \times \dots \times S_N$ - setting LHV description for any finite number S_n of measurement settings at site "n".*

Corollary 2 [10] *If a state ρ has a tensor positive source operator $T_{S_1 \times \dots \times S_N}^{(\rho)}$, then this state admits an $S_1 \times \dots \times \tilde{S}_n \times \dots \times S_N$ - setting LHV description for any finite number \tilde{S}_n of settings at each n -th site.*

6 Numerical bounds

The general analytical upper bound (15) allows us to find [10] the following new exact numerical bounds on the maximal quantum Bell violations.

- For the two-qubit singlet ρ_{singlet} , the maximal Bell violation

$$\Upsilon_{S \times 2}^{(\rho_{\text{singlet}}, \Lambda)} \leq \sqrt{3}, \quad S \geq 2, \quad (16)$$

for any outcome set $\Lambda = \Lambda_1 \times \Lambda_2$, in particular, for any number of outcomes at each site. Note that, due to the seminal results of Tsirelson⁹ and Fine¹⁰, the maximal Bell violation $\Upsilon_{2 \times 2}^{(\rho, \Lambda)} \leq \sqrt{2}$, for any bipartite state ρ and any outcome set $\Lambda = \{\lambda_1^{(1)}, \lambda_1^{(2)}\} \times \{\lambda_2^{(1)}, \lambda_2^{(2)}\}$ (dichotomic measurements). The maximal violation by the singlet of any correlation Bell-type inequality is given [3] by the Grothendieck constant $\sqrt{2} \leq K_G(3) \leq 1.5163\dots$.

⁹Tsirelson B.: *J. Soviet Math.* **36**, 557 (1987).

¹⁰Fine A.: *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **48**, 291 (1982)

- For the N -qudit GHZ state

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} \sum_{j=1}^d \underbrace{|j\rangle \otimes \cdots \otimes |j\rangle}_N, \quad (17)$$

violation of any Bell-type inequality for S settings and any number of outcomes per site cannot exceed

$$\begin{aligned} & \min\{(2S-1)^{N-1}, 1 + 2^{N-1}(d-1)\} \\ & \leq 1 + 2^{N-1} [\min\{S^{N-1}, d\} - 1]. \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

- For the generalized N -qubit GHZ state

$$\sin \varphi |1\rangle^{\otimes N} + \cos \varphi |2\rangle^{\otimes N}, \quad (19)$$

violation of any Bell-type inequality for S settings and any number of outcomes per site is upper bounded by

$$1 + 2^{N-1} |\sin 2\varphi|. \quad (20)$$

- For an arbitrary state ρ on $\mathbb{C}^{d_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbb{C}^{d_N}$, the maximal Bell violation in case of S_n settings and any number of outcomes at each n -th site is upper bounded by

$$1 + 2^{N-1} \left[\min \left\{ \frac{S_1 \cdots S_N}{\max_n S_n}, \frac{d_1 \cdots d_N}{\max_n d_n} \right\} - 1 \right]. \quad (21)$$

If $S_1 = \dots = S_N = S$, then the maximal Bell violation cannot exceed

$$\begin{aligned} & \min\{(2S-1)^{N-1}, 1 + 2^{N-1} \left(\frac{d_1 \cdots d_N}{\max_n d_n} - 1 \right)\} \\ & \leq 1 + 2^{N-1} \left[\min\{S^{N-1}, \frac{d_1 \cdots d_N}{\max_n d_n}\} - 1 \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

From this N -partite bound it follows that violation by an arbitrary N -partite quantum state, possibly infinite-dimensional, of any Bell inequality for S measurement settings and any number of outcomes per site cannot exceed $(2S-1)^{N-1}$.

6.1 Bipartite and tripartite bounds

For $N = 2$, the general upper bound (21) implies the following *bipartite upper bound* [10] on the maximal Bell violation

$$\Upsilon_{S_1 \times S_2}^{(\rho, \Lambda)} \leq 2 \min\{S_1, S_2, d_1, d_2\} - 1 \quad (23)$$

for any quantum state ρ on $\mathbb{C}^{d_1} \otimes \mathbb{C}^{d_2}$ and any outcome set $\Lambda = \Lambda_1 \times \Lambda_2$. This new bipartite upper bound improves:

- for (i) $d_1 = d_2 = 2$, $L_1 = L_2 = 2$, and (ii) $d_1 = d_2 \leq L_1 L_2 (K_G + 1)$, $\forall L_1, L_2$, the corresponding numerical upper bounds on the maximal Bell violation (in our notation):

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(i)} \quad & \Upsilon_{S_1 \times S_2}^{(\rho, \Lambda)} \leq 2K_G + 1, \quad L_1 = L_2 = 2, \\ \text{(ii)} \quad & \Upsilon_{S_1 \times S_2}^{(\rho, \Lambda)} \leq 2L_1 L_2 (K_G + 1) - 1, \quad \forall L_1, L_2, \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

found in [6] for any bipartite quantum state ρ and L_1, L_2 outcomes at Alice's and Bob's sites. Here, $K_G = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} K_G(n) \in [1.676..., 1.782...]$ is the Grothendieck constant;

- the approximate bipartite estimate

$$\Upsilon_{S \times S}^{(\rho, \Lambda)} \preceq \min\{S, d\}, \quad \forall \Lambda, \quad (25)$$

derived in [7] up to an unknown universal constant for any bipartite state ρ on $\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d$;

For $N = 3$, the general upper bound (22) implies the following *tripartite upper bound* [10] on the maximal Bell violation:

$$\Upsilon_{S \times S \times S}^{(\rho, \Lambda)} \leq \min\{(2S - 1)^2, 4 \frac{d_1 d_2 d_3}{\max_n d_n} - 3\}, \quad (26)$$

for any tripartite state ρ on $\mathbb{C}^{d_1} \otimes \mathbb{C}^{d_2} \otimes \mathbb{C}^{d_3}$ and any outcome set $\Lambda = \Lambda_1 \times \Lambda_2 \times \Lambda_3$.

For a state ρ on $\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^d$, bound (26) implies

$$\begin{aligned} \Upsilon_{S \times S \times S}^{(\rho, \Lambda)} &\leq \min\{(2S - 1)^2, 4d^2 - 3\} \\ &\leq 4(\min\{S, d\})^2 - 3. \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

From (26) it follows – the approximate lower estimate $\succeq \sqrt{d}$ found in [5] for violation of some correlation Bell-type inequality by some tripartite state on $\mathbb{C}^d \otimes \mathbb{C}^D \otimes \mathbb{C}^D$ is meaningful if only in this correlation Bell-type inequality a number of settings per site satisfies relation

$$(2S - 1)^2 \succeq \sqrt{d}. \quad (28)$$

7 Conclusions

Via some new Hilbert space notions and a new simulation approach, *the LqHV approach*, to the description of any quantum correlation scenario, we have derived the analytical upper bound (15) on the maximal Bell violation by an N -partite quantum state. This has allowed us:

- to single out N -partite quantum states admitting an $S_1 \times \cdots \times S_N$ -setting LHV description;
- to find the new numerical upper bounds on Bell violations for some concrete N -partite states generally used in quantum information processing;
- to prove that violation by an arbitrary N -partite quantum state, possibly infinite-dimensional, of any Bell inequality (either on correlation functions or on joint probabilities) for S measurement settings and any number of outcomes per site cannot exceed $(2S - 1)^{N-1}$;
- to improve the bipartite upper bounds reported in [6, 7];
- to show that, for an "arbitrarily large" tripartite quantum Bell violation argued in [5] to be reached, not only a Hilbert space dimension d but also a number S of settings per site in the corresponding tripartite Bell-type inequality must be large and the required growth of S with respect to d is given by (28).

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